city, town

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received date entered

state

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Type all entries	-complete applicable	sections		
1. Nam	ıe			
historic	Siegfrie	d's Dale Farm		
and/or common	Rodale R	esearch Center		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Siegfrie	d's Road		not for publication
city, town	Maxatawney Townsh	ip vicinity of		
state	Pennsylvania cod	e 42 county	Berks	code 011
3. Clas	sification			
Category districtx building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitionin process being considered	Status _X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted _ yes: unrestricted _ no	Present Use _x agriculture commercial _x educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious _X scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty	•	
name	Mr. and	Mrs. Robert Rodale		
street & number	33 East	Minor Street		
city, town	Emmaus	vicinity of	state	PA
5. Loca	tion of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc.	Berks County Cou	ırthouse	
street & number		33 6th Street No	orth	
city, town		Reading	state	Pennsylvania
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing	Surveys	
itle None		has this pro	perty been determined e	ligible?yes _Xno
ate			federal sta	ate county local
epository for sur	vey records			

7. Description

					•	
Condition good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _x_ altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	N/A		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

As presently constituted, the Siegfried's Dale Farm community consists of three handsome farm houses, two of local stone and one clad in German siding, two impressive bank barns (one the largest of its day in Berks County), a school house, and numerous agricultural structures, situated on land acquired by Johannes Siegfried, in 1732. These are closely spaced near Siegfried's Road, in the immediate vicinity of Kutztown, one of the principal centers of Pennsylvania farm architecture, Surrounded by the rolling Pennsylvania hillsides, Siegfried's Dale Farm forms a unified architectural group of picturesque charm.

Though building can be presumed to have been built shortly after Siegfried acquired his land in 1732, datestones on houses and barns, coupled with stylistic evidence, suggest that the earliest building dates from 1790, the date of the German sided farmhouse with the stone plaque inscribed "Johannes and Gertraud", and below, "1790". Its neighboring house has a date plaque marked "18 John 27 18 Catha 27" on its stone walls. Both are two and one-half story, gable roofed, four register houses, with entrances in the register to the left of center, and originally with four rooms on the first floor. The stone walls of the latter house are of rubble, with larger corner stones laid as long and short work to stabilize the corners. Presumably the earlier house was similarly constructed, though its siding makes such speculation inconclusive. A simple projecting cornice caps the facades and continues up the gable ends with short returns at the base of the gable. Windows and doors are framed with heavy timbers that carry the masonry of the wall. The composition is an interesting regional variant, with four registers of openings; placing the door off center. The front porches, however, show three bays which are centered on the entrance door, shading the adjacent windows and leaving the easternmost window unshaded. The net effect in each case is of a center hall, Georgian plan, but with wider rooms on the east. No doubt that resulted from the ease of framing a symmetrical house.

Just as the envelopes of the two houses are similar, so too are the plans. The off center door leads into a short vestibule, in turn opening into a narrow center hall containing the stair on the western wall. The stair of the John and Catha Siegfried house of 1827 survives in its original detail, with a turned hardwood newel and rail mounted on square balusters, and with a raised dado and post framing a simple wall wainscott. The stair rises to a landing, with a short return to a hall that provides access to three of the rooms, while a short winder reaches the last room in the southwest corner. Though the house has been modernized with a Victorian front porch with turned columns added c.1870, the essential quality of the building remains intact.

The adjacent Johannes Siegfried house of 1790 shows the same plan arrangement, but with additional changes. In the 1880s or 1890s, its original stair was removed and replaced with a modern Queen Anne newel and balustrade of walnut, with turned chestnut balusters. This probably occurred when the rear wing of the house was added, as a means of eliminating the congested stair landing. It was probably at this time that the German siding was added to conceal the new addition.

A third house stands on the site, further to the east, which like the first two follows the convention of a stone, center hall Georgian type, but differs in the absolute symmetry of a five register front. The rear wing is probably older and may well be the original construction on the site, but the main block is from the early 19th century. Its stair

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Continuation sheet Siegfried's Dale Farm

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Berks County
Item number 7

For NPS use only received: date entered

Page 2

shows the same configuration as that of the John and Catha Siegfried house, with a straight run up to a landing which divides on one side into a winder to reach the rear corner room, and on the other to a short return run that leads to the hall. The stained maple newel and rail and square balusters are similar to that of the 1827 house as well. Interior finishes are generally more elegant than those of the other houses, but like those it was updated after the Civil War. Side rooms show the millwork with corner medallions of the Colonial Revival, while fireplaces seem to have been updated with Queen Anne mantles corresponding to the era of the added front porch with its turned columns.

Adjacent to the 1790 and 1827 houses is a handsome Pennsylvania bank barn reputed to be the largest and most important in Berks County. It conforms to the standard supported forebay type with the side walls continuing to the end of the forebay. A plaque set into the brick wall below the forebay carries the inscription "Johannes Siegfried 1819" and another indicates that the barn was extensively enlarged in 1905 by Charles Grim. It seems likely that the latter phase added the two wings that frame the entrance ramp and the extensions at each end of the main facade that continue beyond the brick central wall. That central portion corresponds to the typical size of the Pennsylvania German barn of the early 19th century; with its added wings, it is immense. Grim's work further altered the appearance of the barn by sheathing the front and sides in vertical siding that continues the texture of the sliding doors. Most other openings are covered by hinged doors with wrought iron straps. Other openings show the peculiar use of a nearly square, prefabricated window set on its corner in the plane of a sliding door.

That barn is surrounded by a cluster of secondary outbuildings, including a smaller barn, also wood sided, and a handsome shed with X-braced sliding doors. They form a rectangular space that historians view as being derived from medieval courtyards.

To the east, adjacent to the five-bay Georgian plan house is the other major structure of the farm, another bank barn with stone side corners and wood gable ends. It is of the size and configuration of the Johannes and Gertraud Siegfried barn of 1819. Two large sliding doors open from the banked ramp, leading into a classic, almost cathedral-like space subdivided by the mortised and tenoned heavy timber frame, or "bents". The ground level is equally spectacular, with lap spliced main beams supported by massive wood piers. Numerous doors from stalls opened under the forebay into the barnyard. That forebay is of the projecting variety, rather than the enclosed type of the other barn, and has been resheathed.

One additional building of note exists on the farm, a model, one room, brick school house with a small belfry and entrance porch on the east gable. On its side walls are three square-headed, shuttered windows which light the plain classroom. It completes a picture of a growing German farm family, intensively developing its farm, extending its barns, and educating its children.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Berks County

Continuation sheet Siegfried's Dale Farm

Item number

7

received

For NPS use only

Page

3

'" - 1927 (datestone)

HTTTCAHL.

. John and Catherina Siegfried Barn, 1819 (datestone), reconstructed by Charles Grim, 1905 (datestone)

Major frame bank barn with rubble masonry foundation walls, brick wall with stall doors under forebay. Forebay carried on cast iron columns. Side wings flank the banked entrance. Sliding doors open into the threshing floor. --- Significant.

- . Barnyard to Siegfried/Grim Barn
- a. Calving barn, c.1900

One and one-half story, five bay barn with vertical siding over post and beam framing. The gable roof with symmetrical sheds is pierced by a masonry chimney, originally part o the heating system used in the birthing operation of livestock. Each bay consists of a double cross-braced door, either sliding or hinged, which in centrally pierced by a single paned window. --- Contributing.

b. Small barn, c.1860

One and one-half story, three bay barn with vertical siding over hand-hewn post and beam construction. Built on a stone foundation, this slate roofed barn is internally divided into three bays, each of a differing dimension. This partitioning as well as an attic loft suggests the barn's use for specific farm related needs. --- Contributing.

c. Small barn, c.1900

One-story barn with vertical siding over post and beam frame. This symmetrically proportioned barn with two central doors and flanking double windows is structurally and stylistically linked to the calving barn. --- Contributing.

d. Barn

One and one-half story barn with vertical siding over post and beam frame. --- Contributing.

e. Corn crib

Frame construction with widely spaced horizontal planks infilled with large mesh screen. Typical early 20th-century corn crib. --- Contributing.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

| **FORM** Berks County

Continuation sheet Siegfried's Dale Farm

item number

7

For NPS use only received date entered

Page

4

. Henry Siegfried Barn, mid-19th century

Classic bank barn with stone walls solidified by long and short work at the corners. Wood end gables and projecting wood sheathed forebay carried on cast iron columns. Sliding wood doors open from ramped entrance into an impressive threshing floor framed by massive mortised and tenoned bents. Ground floor carried on two rows of square columns supporting lap spliced beams. Dutch doors open into barnyard. --- Significant.

7. Spring and Rendering House, c.1790 and c.1880 Rubble masonry foundation and walls with internal post and beam framing and decorative wooden porches. Built on a slope, the structure is one and one-half stories high on the back and one-story on the main elevation. The lower level contains the source of water and a large brick oven used in the rendering of meats. Supported from the beams are cast iron rails used in the maneuvering of large slabs of meat in the butchering process. Exterior detailing is similar to the barnyard buildings. —— Contributing.

8. School House, 1906, (datestone)

One and one-half story brick, one-room school house with small belfry and entrance porch with turned columns on east gable. The side walls are pierced by three evenly spaced windows with 6/6 double-hung sash and raised panel shutters. --- Contributing.

9. Smokehouse, c.1820

One-story rubble masonry and vertical siding over frame construction. Containing oven and meat hooks used in process of smoking meats. --- Contributing.

iO. Carriage House, c.1880

One and one-half story barn with vertical siding over post and beam frame. Large double doors on cast iron tracks create access to a central interior space which is divided into three sections by the posts supporting the main beams. --- Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Siegfried's Dale Historic
Continuation sheet Farm Complex Item number

Page

5_

John and Catherina Siegfried House

The John and Catherina Siegfried House rises 21/2 stories from the rubble masonry foundation and walls to a slate covered roof which is penetrated The four register farmhouse is constructed of by three gabled dormers. local rubble stone with pronounced long and short work supporting the corners. The side and rear elevations have been sheathed with German ship lap siding, typical of late 19th-century rural tastes. Fronting the main elevation is a three-bay Victorian porch constructed with turned free-standing and engaged columns and topped by a standing seam The wall is penetrated by four windows with 1/1 double-hung metal roof. sash, wooden sills and lintels and original raised panel shutters with ornamental cast iron fasteners on the second floor and three similar windows and an entranceway with raised panel door on the frist floor. Two cut limestone date plaques documenting the structure's owner-builders and the date of construction are embedded in the stone wall between the windows of the second floor. The hall is of the off-center type and holds the original stair with framed wainscott, turned newel and square balusters. While some 20th-century improvements were made by previous owners, the original plan and many of the early finishes and architectural elements remain unobscured.

Henry Siegfried House

The Henry Siegfried House is a center hall Georgian type stone farmhouse which rises 2½ stories and is crowned by a slate roof. The rubble masonry walls are supported at the corners by prominent long and short work. The main elevation is a five register, symmetrically composed facade penetrated by five openings on each floor. Original 9/6 pane double-hung window sash, window trim and iron shutter fasteners and pintels are intact. A small one-bay Victorian porch with turned columns and decorative cut-out support brackets encloses the original entranceway. The gable walls are penetrated by symmetrically arranged windows, each containing the original 9/6 pane sash and trim. Projecting from the rear elevation of the main mass is an el, which from construction details and stylistic considerations may be an earlier structure, possibly the original Johannes Siegfried House, built by the first settler of the region.

The center hall contains a straight-run stair leading to a landing where it divides on one side into a winder to reach the rear corner room, and on the other a short return run that leads to a second floor hall. A stained and varnished maple newel and rail supported by square balusters add an elegant level of finish to this functional design. The four rooms of the first floor are entered from the center hall through openings which retain the early mortise and tenon, raised panel doors with wrought iron and cast iron hinges and decorative box locks. The interior millwork shows a gradual stylistic upgrading from the early 19th-century beginnings (cont)

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Siegfried's Dale Historic

Continuation sheet

Farm Complex

Item number

/

Page

6

to the post-Civil War era. Designs such as the Queen Anne style mantles of the fireplaces and the Colonial Revival medallions of the side rooms document this progression.

Johannes Siegfried House

The Johannes Siegfried House is a 21-story farmhouse constructed of rubble masonry and sheathed with German ship lap siding. The four register structure is fronted by a three register Victorian porch which is supported on a rubble foundation. An off-center doorway penetrates the first floor and is flanked by two windows to one side and one window to the other. The second floor is pentrated by four windows aligned directly above the lower openings. The facade contains such decorative elements as the fine cut-out work of the porch, the first floor shutters and iron fasteners and a paneled front door. A date plaque inscribed "Johannes 1790" is inset into the wall above the porch roof. The side elevations are penetrated by two windows with 1/1 double-hung sash on each floor, and two smaller attic windows. Projecting from the rear elevation is a two-story Italianate styled el with typical features such as the low roof profile and cornice returns. The el is sheathed with a ship lap siding similar to that of the main mass. The interior retains most of the Victorian era replacement features such as the Queen Anne newel and balustrade and Colonial Revival fireplaces and mantles.

8. Significan

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications		Iandscape architectur Iaw Iiterature Immunitary Immunit	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1790, 1819, 1827, 1905	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

What is now the farm research center of the Rodale Press has a history that reaches back two and one-half centuries to the 1732 arrival in Maxatawney Township of Johannes Siegfried. According to the histories of Berks County, Siegfried and his wife Elizabeth were "among the first, if not the first, white settler[s] in the vicinity of Kutztown" and their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was the first child in the region of European ancestry. That family dominated its region, giving it the name of "Siegfried's Dale". According to the parish records of the Moravian community in Emaus, the farm community was a major center for the spread of the Moravian denomination. On the land which Siegfried acquired is a compact complex of building that provides a record of the development of agricultural architecture in northeast Pennsylvania. Here are five examples of farmhouses, an impressive German bank barn, and an immense Lancaster County barn, as well as numerous smaller farm buildings. The relationship of houses, barns and barnyard describe the organization of family and work, and emphasizes the continuity of the planning of farm communities from the German Palatinate, where Siegfried originated, into the Pennsylvania countryside. Because the farm remained in the hands of Siegfried family descendants well into the 20th century, the integrity of its buildings and its plan has survived with remarkable completeness. Thanks to its present use as an agricultural research center, with its school building converted to an orientation facility, that history is now accessible to the general public.

Though the Siegfried family history is of importance to the development of the Maxatawney Township and Kutztown region, the family's importance spread out across much of the state. Obviously, many of the Moravian missions throughout the state owe their origins to the support of the family. Moreover, family members had their own impact on national history. Colonel John Siegfried (b.1745 at Siegfried's Dale, grandson of Johannes) commanded the Third Battalion of the Northampton Company Militia during the Revolution, where he became a confidant of General Washington. Finally, a later descendant, J.K. Siegfried, who like Colonel Siegfried lived at Siegfried's bridge near Allentown, Pennsylvania, has importance in the history of the building trades of Pennsylvania, as developer of a factory for natur Portland cement, which was used to build the Lehigh Canal.

Despite those contributions to the nation's history and the region's economy, the real importance of Siegfried's Dale lies in the remarkable level of preservation of one of the best preserved, continuously operated farmsteads in the state. There, for all to see, stands a record of nearly two centuries of building, ranging from stately barns to corn cribs and from handsome dwellings to a school house. Datestones on two of the houses, one of the barns and the school house add a level a factual accuracy that confirms it as a family compound which values the work of ancestors and maintains its mementos, rather than as speculative real estate.

As a family compound, it is truly remarkable, providing in its buildings evidence of the Siegfried family's continuity in the region. In 1876, the Berks County Atlas showed the properties of Henry and John Siegfried on Siegfriedale Road, with Daniel, Benjamin and

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Siegfried's Dale Farm

Item number

8

Page

10/31/34

2

other of the family holding land to the north and south, making the reason for the name Siegfried's Dale apparent. Moreover, the interrelationship between buildings suggests the cooperative nature of the family farm. It is surely not a coincidence that the older generation, represented by the Germanic named Johannes and Gertraud, were occupants of the oldest house on the property. Of the two later houses, the one for John -- the Americanized namesake -- is contiguous, and shares the barnyard compound of the father, while Henry's house shares the architectural and planning features of the other houses, notably the split stair, center hall plan, and local stone con- . struction, but is separated in space.

Their simultaneous construction and shared motifs were repeated two generations later in an upgrading of all the houses after the Civil War. At that time, the oldest house was enlarged with a rear wing to bring it up to the size of the houses of the early 19th century, and all of the houses received new front porches in keeping with mid-century notions about the suburban house. "Modern" Victorian mantles and millwork in all of the houses provide additional evidence about the shared resources of the family and their common use. The visual impact is of course of a unified cluster of houses that emphasizes the communal and cooperative nature of Siegfried's Dale.

Though the houses look toward English center hall types, the Germanic ancestry of the family is much in evidence in the two great barns and the planning and organization of the barnyard. The scanty literature on the barn as building type assigns the two-level, ramped or bank loam types to Southwest Germany and Switzerland, accounting for its local name of "Schweitzer" barn. The family grave markers and all of the geneological records show the Siegfried family origins in the Palatine region with later marriages among Palatine immigrants of Northeast Pennsylvania. Their barn types, especially the older Henry Siegfried barn, represent the classic masonry ended solution typical of the region The barn rebuilt by Charles Grim, who married into the family, shows the later, wood covered form, more common at the turn of the century, resulting in what was widely regarded as " the finest barn in the region". The monumentalization of the barn was also derived from the German buildings of the middle ages, which reflected the harsh climate of the continent, and contrasted with the more casual English shelters that the oceaninfluence climate made possible. Of equal interest is the survival of the barnyard buildings in the vicinity of the Siegfried/Grim barn. Corn cribs, small barns, a calving barn and shed, and a springhouse across the road share the proportions, materials and motifs of the main building, while creating a rare, surviving agricultural landscape. Those secondary structures frame a small court, rooted in the German farmyard which historians recount as a survival from medieval connected planning. That planning also served as an accommodation to climate, and according to some historians, may in fact reach back to Roman sources. With the smokehouse and the carriage house, the landscape is remarkably unaltered, providing the region's best surviving example of a German farmstead which is accessible to the public. As such it provides a record of the contribution of the German immigrants to Pennsylvania whose orderly farms first created an organized landscape, and whose great barns focussed the land with a powerful monumentality that recalls the cathedrals of Europe looming above their settings. If, as Professor Learned argued, half a century ago, "The German farmers, with their careful method of fertilizing the soil, of alternating the crops, of raising hay, and turning straw and other products into fertilizer, with their mammoth storehouse, the barn, and the heavy

NPS Form 10-900-6 (741)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Siegfried's Dale Farm

Item number

8

EXP. 10/31/34

Page

3

conestoga wagon, were the founders of the agricultural prosperity in America and of our inland trade", then the importance of Siegfried's Dale is all the more evident.

One final note is in order regarding the present owners and their use of the site: that land was sold from the Siegfried family to suburban real estate developers, who fortunately sold to the owners of the Rodale Press. Their national reputation for organic agriculture caused the Press to search for a research center where agricultural ideas could be tested. In so doing, they have found a logical succession to the historic use of the site, one which celebrates the values of the original owner, and brings them into our age through a program of public education, through the Press, and through public access to the site.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Berks County

Continuation sheet Siegfried's Dale Farm

Item number



Page

Dr. M. L. Learned, "The German Barn in America", University of Pennsylvania Lectures, 1913-14 (Philadelphia, 1915), pp. 338-349

Alfred J. Shoemaker, The Pennsylvania Barn, Pennsylvania Folklore Society, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, 1956

J.L. Smith, Atlas of Berks County, Philadelphia, 1986, Maxatawney Township, p.19 John Lober and George Bartlett, History of the Portland Cement Industry in the United States, Chicago, 1924, pp. 18-25

Berks County Wills, Berks County Courthouse, Reading, Pennsylvania, Vol.2, p.35; vol. 2, p.4. Vol. 14, p.139.

Berks County Deeds, Berks County Courthouse, Patent Book A, Vol. 6, p.162 from Caspar Wistar, 1732; F, Vol. 6, p. 142, from John Sichfredt, 1736; and numerous later transactions to Vol. 1606, p.792, 1972 sale to Rodale.

Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States, Philadelphia, 1969

HPS Form 10-900-8 (7-41)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places. Inventory—Nomination Form

EXP. 10/31/34

Continuation sheet

Siegfried's Dale Farm

Item number

1.Ò

Page

the eastern boundary of a property owned by Rodale Press, Inc.; thence south 500' along this property line to Siegfried's Dale Road, and to continue along this line for 200' to a point; thence west parallel to Siegfried's Dale Road at a distance of 200' for 2,300' to a point on Christman Road; then north along Christman road for 200' to a point, the place of beginning. This parcel of land contains approximately 37 acres, being land entirely within the original Johannes Siegfried farm and presently known as Siegfried's Dale Historic Complex.

9. Major Bi	bliographica	I Reference	3
Kutztown Publi	shing Company, 1915,	pp. 21-24.	entennial History of Kutztown, nia, Philadelphia, 1896, (continued)
10. Geogra	phical Data		
Acreage of nominated pro Quadrangle name Top UTM References	pperty 37 ton Quad		Quadrangle scale1:24,000
A 1 8 4 3 8 5 8 Easting C 1 8 4 3 8 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	Northing 0 414 818 91510	Zone Eastin	18 5 2 0 4 4 8 8 8 0 0 Northing 18 8 6 0 4 4 8 9 0 3 0 9 2 2 0 4 4 8 8 7 9 0
G 118 4 318 914			8 7 6 0 4 4 8 8 7 4 0
Fried's Dale Road (Testablished by and o	CWP831) and Christman continuing from Christ	Road (TWP860), runn tman Road to a point	at the intersection of Sieg- ning north for 500' along a line t; thence east parallel to Sieg- cely 2,300' to a point on (cont
List all states and cou	nties for properties overla	apping state or county l	oundaries
state Pennsylvania	a code 42	2 county Berks	code 011
state	code	county	code
11. Form P	repared By		
name/title George E.	Thomas, Ph.D.		
organization Clio Group	o, Inc.	date	October 5, 1983
street & number 3961 E	Baltimore Avenue	telephon	e(215) 386-6276
city or town Philad	lelphia	state	PA
12. State H	listoric Prese	ervation Offi	cer Certification
The evaluated significance	e of this property within the s	tate is:	
nation	al state _	local	
665), I hereby nominate thi		e National Register and cer	servation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– tify that it has been evaluated
State Historic Preservation	Officer signature	·	
title			date
For NPS use only			
i nereby certify that t	this property is included in the	e national Register	data
Keeper of the National	Register		date
Attest:			date
Chief of Registration		·	





